

WILD TURKEY HUNT.

Skillful Sportsman Calls Bird to Come and be Shot.

When morning dawned in northern Arkansas there was some four inches of snow on the ground. We considered ourselves most fortunate in encountering the snow, something decidedly unusual in the territory, and because of the increased light from the carpet of white we were enabled to make a most early start into the woods.

He paired off in twos, my companion being an experienced turkey hunter and possessing a marvellous skill in imitating their call with a wing bone. There are many kinds of turkey callers, and most every hunter has some one which he claims to be better than any other, ranging from a gourd-end with an oak pin in it and a piece of slate to the elaborate and highly ornamented and patented callers to be bought in the sporting goods stores.

The turkeys had not left their roosting places when we reached their range and the carpet of snow was unsullied by any marks or tracks, except, occasionally, near a tree, where an inquisitive and early rising squirrel had made an essay to go visiting but had changed its mind and returned to its snug nest after floundering a few feet through the snow, or where a night prowling fox or coon had passed along.

Every hundred yards or so we would stop for a few minutes while my companion sent the notes of his call floating through the silent forest. We had not made more than half a dozen of these pauses before, in answer to this call, far through the woods we heard an unmistakable reply. We separated a few yards, each of us taking a crouching position at the foot of a large tree, facing toward the portion of the forest from whence had come the call. This is the only safe position when attempting to call a turkey, for the background of the trees seems to prevent the turkey from seeing the hunter, and often the bird will walk up to within a few feet of the man if the latter will only remain quiet.

My companion now began to call again, and soon, from several directions, he secured answering calls. Then we heard the beating of mighty wings as a distant turkey, presumably of great size, fluttered its ponderous body from the limb where it had roosted through the night to the snow-covered ground. It was a most exciting and nerve-racking sound, and it put us both upon the keen edge of expectancy, for often a turkey will fly straight from its roosting place to the gunner with his wing-bone caller.

Far through the woods I caught a glimpse of the dark body of the turkey sailing toward the ground and my heart went up in my throat and my pulse beat like a railroad engine climbing a heavy grade. However, the bird lit some two or three hundred yards away in a clear space, and I could see it leisurely making its way toward us, standing out bold and prominent in the sea of whiteness. Slowly it approached, and, when just about 150 yards away, there came a roar of wings, and, sailing out of a cypress brake, a big turkey came straight for my position, flying through the trees with the speed of a race horse. Without a turn or curve it came, bearing down upon me, and when less than fifty yards away I gave it a load of No. 4 chilled shot and piled it up in the most approved style. I had not been so intent upon this bird that I failed to keep an eye out back at the one on the ground, and, strange to relate, it did

not fly at my shot, but turned and ran off through a patch of switch cane.

Gathering up the dead bird, the two of us made a rapid detour through the woods in the attempt to head off the other bird, and, after running some four hundred yards, making a circuit around the patch of cane, we took stands in an open glade in the general direction the turkey had headed. Then my friend began calling again and it was not long until the turkey answered him. It came closer, as we could tell from its calling, until as we could tell from its calling, until and shaking as it made its way through it. We were scarcely more than twenty yards from the edge of the cane, our positions about seventy yards apart, and, from the way the turkey was coming, it looked as if it would come out into the glade exactly between us. But it took one of those strange freaks so common with turkeys, and, when almost out of the cane, turned to the left, toward my position, and, still keeping out of sight in the protecting mass of cane, crept toward me. On it came until just in front of me and then it stepped out into the open and there was nothing left for me to do but to bowl it over, although I am sincere to say I felt a bit guilty in killing both the chances we had secured that morning, my friend alone being responsible for them, as I was not at all skilled in calling them.—Kansas City Star.

THE STRENGTH OF AN EAGLE.

Weight the Bird Could Carry in Flight—His Strong Claws.

While I cannot give any positive proof of how much a bald eagle can carry, I should suppose that he could carry at least as much in proportion to his weight as a hawk or a horned owl. I have the recorded weight of a male bald eagle weighing nine and one-quarter pounds and a female weighing twelve pounds.

A horned owl will weigh from four to five pounds, and I have several times known one to carry off a large house cat. One was a very large one and the owner told me he could hear the cat cry as he was being carried off. Now, any one who will weigh a large house cat will find it to weigh at least ten pounds.

I have seen a goshawk carry off a hen fully twice its own weight, and I have taken from a marsh hawk a very large chicken which would weigh more than twice what the hawk would. The marsh hawk is one of our weakest hawks, but he had carried this chicken over a quarter of a mile. My belief is that if a hawk or horned owl can carry more than twice its weight (and I know positively that they can) that an eagle could, if occasion required, do as much in proportion to his weight, which would be to carry eighteen or twenty pounds.

Once when an eagle, shot through the body with a rifle ball, lay on its back, I upended a long road skid and dropped it on him. Before it reached him he stretched up and caught it in his claws and held it up the length of his legs above him. I walked up on the skid and stood above him and he easily held me and the skid, which I should judge would weigh more than twenty pounds. I took pains to be weighed the same day and weighed 119 pounds. Put a stick in the claw of a wounded eagle and let him grasp a small tree with the other and a man must be stronger than I ever was to take the stick from him.—From Forest and Stream.

A 400-foot vessel has just been built and launched on the Tyne, England, in the record time of 69 working days.

In Madagascar there is a natural fortress with precipitous walls 1,000 feet high. The only means of access is a subterranean passage.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,

Eighth Judicial Circuit, Putnam County, Florida—In Chancery—Mattie P. Adams vs. Joseph O. Adams—Divorce.

It appearing by affidavit appended to the bill filed in the above stated cause that Joseph O. Adams, the defendant therein named, is a non-resident of the state of Florida, and is a resident of Asheville, in the state of North Carolina, and is over the age of twenty-one years, and that there is no person in the state of Florida, upon whom the service of subpoena would bind such defendant; it is therefore ordered that said non-resident defendant be, and he is hereby required to appear to the bill of complaint filed in said cause on or before Monday, the 7th day of December, A. D. 1908, otherwise the allegations of said bill will be taken as confessed by said defendant.

It is further ordered that this order be published once a week for five consecutive weeks in the San Mateo Item, a newspaper published in said county and state.

Witness my hand and official seal this, the 27th day of October, 1908:

JOSEPH PRICE,
Clerk Circuit Court.
J. N. BLACKWELL, (Seal.)
Counsel and Solicitor for Complainant.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED.

Notice is hereby given that R. B. McGloughlin, purchaser of tax certificate No. 31, dated the 7th day of July, A. D. 1890, has filed said certificate in my office, and has made application for tax deed to issue in accordance with law. Said certificate embraces the following described property situated in Putnam county, Florida, to-wit: Southeast quarter except southwest quarter of southeast quarter, section 35, township 8, range 24—120 acres. The said land being assessed at the date of the issuance of such certificate in the name of Unknown No. 25.

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, tax deed will issue thereon on the 7th day of December, A. D. 1908.

Witness my official signature and seal this, the 27th day of October, A. D. 1908:

JOSEPH PRICE,
Clerk Circuit Court Putnam County, Florida. By Jos. Price, Jr., D. C. (Seal.)

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